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The United States Government maintains a great number of schools for the educating and uplifting of the "Noble Red Man" and with our efficient Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Hon. Cato Sells, we are endeavoring to stamp out disease and teach the Indian how to live so as to be a healthful and useful citizen. Mr. Sells and his assistants certainly are doing a wonderful work, but I am sure that he realizes that he cannot carry the whole burden and needs our coöperation. We find that many of the Indians have that dreaded disease trachoma, especially the school children, and we all know that if this disease is left untreated it often results in blindness. Here the nurse can do her share in this great campaign for "Preparedness," for what counts for more than good health? In order to prepare these children to be their best we must look after their physical welfare. The Indian is a little slow sometimes to show his gratitude and he may watch you with a keen eye until he sees whether you "make good medicine" but if you do and once gain his confidence, he is your "good friend" ever after. Thus we have the fruits of our labors.

I hope that nurses who read this will give it thought and consideration and that it may be the means of more entering the Indian Service, for we need more nurses, good nurses, and nurses with the true missionary spirit.

For further particulars apply to the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

South Dakota.

R. B.

TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL GRADUATES OF 1916

DEAR EDITOR: With the interests of the nursing profession and the alumnae associations at heart, as well as the interest I have in the 1916 graduates, I am writing this letter that they may know how the alumnae associations feel towards the graduates of their alma mater.

I can well understand how indifferent a nurse may feel towards the organization by my own feelings in the past. For years I hadn't the slightest interest in my alumnae association, of which I was a charter member, 1891; and when I did wish to go back it was not because of any desire to help the alumnae association but because I felt sure the society could and would help me. I therefore paid six years' back dues and have found there is work for us all to do. The harder one works for the association, the bigger and better one will be, and the growth of the individual means the growth of the organization to which one belongs and membership therein will be of value just in proportion as one helps to make it worth while.

If a nurse join her alumnae association this year she will, of course, be the youngest member in the work, but in a few short years the older ones will be gone and she will be one of the "old nurses," and the association will be what she has helped to make it, either because she became a member and worked for it, or because she did not give it her moral and financial support.

She would not enter a training school whose graduate nurses cared too little for the advancement of the profession and the welfare of their associate nurses to organize and keep up an alumnae association. I am sure any hospital board and association would be ashamed of a training school sending out nurses of that kind.

To the nurse, individually, membership in an alumnae association should mean much. If she were seeking a position, one of the first questions likely to be

asked her would be whether she were a member in good standing in her alumnae association. As the years go by, more and more stress will be laid upon, and the filling of important positions conditioned upon, membership in an alumnae association. In order to become a member of the "Red Cross Society" one must be a member in good standing of some organization affiliated with the American Nurses' Association. Many nurses think that registration should be compulsory in all states as it is now in thirteen. If an association is a member of the American Nurses' Association, membership in it makes one a member of the A. N. A. and that organization has a Relief Fund to be used to help its members who need more help than the local society can give.

I am taking it for granted that all alumnae associations have some established way of looking after the welfare of their members. If by chance an association does not have such a fund, it may be the privilege of the graduates of 1916 to agitate the question and get one started, and the hospital managers should take enough interest in its graduates to help along the good work. They must know how absolutely impossible it would be to have a good hospital without good nurses.

Now I am asking the nurses of 1916 to think it over and talk it over and join the alumnae associations in a body; for by so doing they will be working to their own advantage as well as for the interest of their societies.

CAROLINE H. METCALF.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

SUBJECT TO THE DOCTOR'S APPROVAL?

DEAR EDITOR: I have found the following hints very helpful to the private duty nurse and am passing them on with the hope that others may benefit by them. How many times we are on a case when some member of the family meets with an accident, such as a cut from an axe or a bruise from machinery, possibly when some miles from the doctor. Gasoline is a most wonderful hemostatic, antiseptic and cleansing, especially when there is grit and grease in the wound. It would pay every private duty nurse to include a small bottle of gasoline in her paraphernalia remembering, however, that it is highly inflammable. The next time you meet the emergency of post partum hemorrhage, while you are waiting for the physician you will find a vinegar douche a marvelous treatment. Vinegar is found in every household and it can be used hot or cold. Trusting that these hints may be of value to some of the JOURNAL readers,

New York.

C. M. H.